

The issue of the death penalty is not just a matter of legal and political, but mainly social, ethical and moral. As other questions like abortion, euthanasia and gay adoption of children, this issue forces us to make up our own opinion and take an attitude. In addition, capital punishment is not only historical relic, but there are still lot of states that retained it in their legal system and also a lot of states that can perform it today. And it is not just a totalitarian or authoritarian states, as it might seem, but also a modern democratic society such as Japan or the United States of America.

In the second chapter of his work, I focus on issue what is punishment and what kind of punishment and purpose exists. In the third chapter I try to outline the history and present of the death penalty, in the fourth chapter on methods of its execution. In the fifth chapter I introduce arguments of supporters and opponents of the death penalty, in next chapter I focus on public opinion. In the seventh chapter I work with international documents that deal with the death penalty. In the eighth chapter, I try to look at the death penalty from the perspective of Christian faith. The ninth chapter focuses on alternatives to the death penalty and the tenth deals with several well-known cases which have occurred in our country and where the death penalty was applied.

Although the world count of executions and people sentenced to death has been steadily decreasing and even gain states that the death penalty entirely excluded from their law, it is not very realistic that the death penalty will be abolished worldwide. There still are and always will be a lot of states where citizens will be punished by death, despite the pressure the UN and other international institutions. They can at least attempt to appeal to states to perform it humanely and apply the death penalty only for really serious crimes (murder, terrorism) and rather only in exceptional cases.

After studying all available materials, I inclined to the views of opponents of the death penalty, although the arguments of both camps, supporters and opponents of capital punishment, are reasonable and logical in some issues, but there are also things which in I cannot agree at all. Yet I rather incline to the view of opponents of capital punishment with the idea that if the death penalty is decided by the people, here cannot be exclude the possibility of erroneous decisions and execute an innocent man is nothing other than murder, even under the control of state institutions. It is only right that, especially in the state of the judiciary such as we have, that death penalty in no longer in law.